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**Lives in
the balance**

For NRP crisis negotiators,
'You can't talk the police lingo'
Page 10

**Music to help
dementia patients**

Fifty-five iPods are delivered to four
Welland long-term care homes
Page 16

**FIGHTING
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

INPORT NEWS

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Wainfleet Idol



ALAN BERNER
/QMI AGENCY
NIAGARA

Jenna
Sargent
was one
of several
contestants
in the
Wainfleet
Idol
competition
at the
Wainfleet
Fall Fair,
Saturday.
See story on
page 2.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **EVENTS:** Hundreds of people attend Wainfleet fall extravaganza

'It's a good day for a fair,' says agricultural society president

ALLAN BENNER
/QMI Agency Niagara

Although it was a fall fair, it felt like summer to the hundreds of people who visited the Wainfleet fair grounds from Thursday to Saturday.

And the warm temperatures may have contributed to the increased number of visitors.

"I know Thursday night, we were up with attendance. And Friday, we had a huge crowd," said Wainfleet Agricultural Society president David Wyatt.

"Today's looking like a big crowd too," he added Saturday, the final day of the event.

The weather helped, with far better conditions than Wainfleet experienced a year earlier, he said.

"It rained all day Saturday last year, and this year it's beautiful," Wyatt said. "It's a good day for a fair."

Considering the number of activities planned for Saturday, the clear sky and warm temperatures were very welcome.

He said events like the Wainfleet Idol talent competition and corn eating contest attracted a lot of interest, while the Iron Farmer competition brought in more than a dozen participants.

"It's the second year and we've had a good response on that," Wyatt said, referring to the obstacle course that includes repairing a fence, roping the calf that broke the fence, lifting a tractor tire, stacking a balls of hay, carrying a bag of grain, and carrying a heavy stuffed pig across the finish line."

Despite the number of challenges, Wyatt said one competitor managed to do it all in one minute and 48 sec-



PHOTOS BY ALLAN BENNER /QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Rebecca Mayr, 7, gets transformed in to a zombie by makeup artist Jazlyn Smits at the Wainfleet Fall Fair, Saturday.

onds. "It's a lot of work in a very short time," he said.

Wyatt was expecting the crowds at the fair to continue to grow as the day wore on.

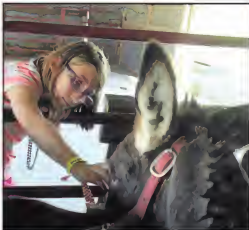
"We should have a lot out

at the demolition derby as well," he said.

In addition to events such as the tractor pulls, pony rides live entertainment, and agricultural demonstrations, this year's fair included a few

new activities such as a miniature horse show, a zombie walk and zombie face painting.

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Twitter: @abenner1



Athena Dezenos, 11, pets a pony at the Wainfleet Fall Fair, Saturday. The Port Colborne resident was one of hundreds of people who took advantage of beautiful weather to enjoy the events.



Carly Collins, 5, from Welland, reaches the top of a climbing wall at the Wainfleet Fall Fair, Saturday.

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LOCAL NEWS

CHILDREN'S CARE

FACS survives under increasing pressure

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI Agency Niagara

Week in, week out, helping some of the region's most vulnerable children is something of a juggling act.

The caseload at Family and Children's Services Niagara continues to grow. The cases are more complex, more costly to investigate.

At the same time, the money is drying up.

Changes in provincial funding for children's services mean FACS has to do more with less.

"It's a challenge, I can't lie about that," said Chris Steven, FACS' executive director.

"We've made it work. But if we were to see a jump in the number of referrals, I cannot guarantee we'd have enough staff to deal with it."

Steven's challenge is rooted in the legal requirements placed on children's aid organizations.

A child in need cannot be placed on a waiting list, he said. At the same time, FACS has to operate within a balanced budget.

Those twin constraints — combined with changes to funding and increasing caseloads — have the potential to put the organization under even more pressure.

At FACS' annual general meeting in St. Catharines, Steven said in 2012-13 the agency helped 9,070 children in need of protective services — which represents 1,000 more cases compared to the previ-



CHRIS STEVEN

ous year.

Only about 4% of those children were actually placed into the care and custody of FACS, Steven said. The rest were assisted through other FACS programs, but every case has to be investigated, which costs money.

He said the caseload is rising in part because of community-wide social changes: high unemployment is connected to increases in the need for mental health services, which are also under pressure, along with family stresses.

Those factors are directly connected to increases in the number of children in need of help.

But provincial funding does not keep pace with the caseload, he said.

The funding formula for children's aid groups was changed by Queen's Park. Once an increase in volume automatically meant a proportional boost in funding, that doesn't happen anymore.

"Basically, the province doesn't have the money," Steven said.

FACS managed to balance its budget and meet its caseload by finding ways to cope, he said, including shutting down the 40-year-old Regional Adolescent Centre.

Steven said he does not want to whine about the pressures facing FACS, but the organization has to face the reality of its situation even as it takes pride in what it accomplished.

"I don't know if the social circumstances and the economy of the region will improve," he said.

"But the challenge is very real."

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FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES: Honours for Dianne and Randy Ryerson

One couple, 15 years — and 64 foster kids

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI Agency Niagara

The statistics define much of the lives of Dianne and Randy Ryerson — but even they were surprised by the numbers when they heard them read aloud.

Family and Children's Services Niagara honoured the couple with a volunteer award for fostering 64 children over the past 15 years.

"We heard that and actually had to start counting backward," Randy Ryerson said. "And sure enough, yes, it's been 64 and we remember most of them."

The couple started fostering children because of Dianne Ryerson's own family history. She was adopted, and her parents fostered children.

"My dad did it to give back, and I wanted to give back," she said. "At first they provided respite for foster parents who went away on vacation. The Ryersons took those

GRANT LAFLECHE /
STAFF PHOTO

Dianne and Randy Ryerson were honoured by FACS Wednesday night. The couple has fostered 64 children over the past 15 years.



children in temporarily, but soon became full-time foster parents, while also raising their own kids.

Dianne Ryerson said sometimes the children are not with them for long, but no matter how much time they are together the couple knows they are providing a safe place for kids who really need it.

"It's hard work, but it is very rewarding," she said.

As if to drive the point home, a little girl the Ryersons are currently

fostering — a girl who is fighting cancer — was with the couple at the FACS annual general meeting where they received their award.

When they got down from the stage, the little girl jumped up in her chair and shouted: "You won!"

"That is what makes it worth it," Randy Ryerson said.

grant.lafleche@sunmedia.ca
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■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

Thinking about life lessons from a seal

FATHER DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT

For QMI Agency Niagara

My brother-in-law was a U.S. navy seal. He showed me an article by U.S. Admiral William R. McRaven, who has been a seal for 36 years. The article was about life lessons based on McRaven's experience of the six months of hardship that seal training was and is. Some of his lessons can relate to Christian discipleship.

Lesson 1 was to make your bed first thing in the morning. Would-be seals had to do this to perfection. But doing it meant that you did something real and learned that little things matter. The equivalent in discipleship training would be to pray the Lord's Prayer first thing in the morning. Even if your day turns out to be rotten, you will know that you did one thing right.

A second lesson came from paddling a dinghy with your crew of seven. You cannot paddle a dinghy in California surf alone, and

you cannot change the world alone. There may be many groups to change the world for the better in some specific way, but only the Church teaches that you start changing the world by denying yourself and loving your neighbor as yourself.

Another lesson came from McRaven's noticing that the muckin' crew, all under 5-foot-5, out-paddled, out-ran and out-swam all the other boat crews. He learned to measure people by the size of their heart, not the size of their shoe or flipper. St. Paul said, "Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes" (1 Cor 4:5).

A lesson came from uniform inspections, in which no amount of effort was ever good enough, and the penalty was to roll in the surf and the sand until you were covered with sand like a sugar cookie, and you had to wear that uniform for the rest of the day. Many would-be seals could not take this seeming injustice. The class of 150 dwindled to 42. The lesson is that life is sometimes unfair. We need to get over life's unfairness and move

forward. Psalm 34 says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."

A surprise lesson came from failing to meet the standards of each day's grueling training, so that at the end of the day you had to endure two more hours of calisthenics, which could make the next day harder, resulting in another two more hours of fatigue. Every would-be Seal experienced this. But over time those who were constantly required to do those two extra hours got stronger and stronger; they developed an inner strength. So don't be afraid of failure. St. Paul said, "We do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inner man is being renewed day by day" (2 Cor 4:16).

The ninth week of seal training is called Hell Week. It is six days of no sleep, constant physical and mental harassment, and a special day at the mud flats. There you spent 15 hours trying to survive the freezing cold mud up to your neck. And the instructors tried to get you to quit, saying that if five men quit,

the rest could all go back to their barracks.

During that night one student raised his voice in song, off-key to be sure, but song nonetheless. Soon others joined in. And somehow the mud seemed a little warmer and dawn not so far away. The lesson was the power of hope, especially when you're up to your neck in mud. Paul and Silas were imprisoned at Philippi and their feet were chained, but at midnight they were praying and singing hymns to God. As Psalm 130 put it, "My soul hopes in the Lord, From the morning watch until night."

In the parable of the sower, Christ warned his disciples against having no root in themselves and so having little endurance in tribulation. Paul was beaten many times, imprisoned, shipwrecked, near death by stoning. But he said, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor 4:17).

Father David Graham Scott serves at St. Ignace's of Antioch Orthodox Church

SKIP GILLHAM

For QMI Agency Niagara

The small bulk carrier *Franquelin* was part of the Thorold-based Quebec & Ontario Transportation Co. It had been built by Port Weller Dry Docks as *Griffin* in 1955, and joined Q&O in 1967.

It was 36 years ago today that *Franquelin* went aground below the Beauharnois Lock in the St. Lawrence Seaway. The vessel was soon refloated and sent to the Canadian Vickers shipyard in Montreal for repairs.

However, before the job could be completed, the shipyard workers went on strike trapping *Franquelin* there until a new contract was negotiated.

Franquelin was sold to Transport Desgagnés in 1984 and renamed *Eva Desgagnés* in 1987. It was retired in 1988 but resold for service on the Caribbean. It went south as *Telchac* in 1989 and traded an additional five years before being scrapped at Tuxpan, Mexico, in 1993.

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FRANQUELIN PHOTOGRAPHED IN PORT COLBOURNE ON DEC. 23, 1976 - SKIP GILLHAM

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LOCALNEWS

IN BRIEF

Get revved up for Last Chance Car Show

Millions of dollars worth of hot rods, classic, custom and

specialty vehicles will be rolling through the Niagara Regional Exhibition gates.

The 34th annual Last Chance Car Show and Swap Meet, hosted by Sunset Cruisers Car Club of Welland, will be at the Niagara St. fairgrounds Sunday.

More than 1,100 vehicles — a record — were entered in last year's show.

The event features automotive displays and swaps, face painting for the kids and "red neck horse shoos." Last year about 150 vendors

participated.

Last Chance Car Show runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is held to raise funds for Tender Wishes, a volunteer-run organization that grants wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses.

Entry fee for show cars is \$15 for driver and passenger. Spectators are admitted for \$5, kids under 12 free with an adult.

For information call 905-734-3668 or e-mail sunsetcruiserscarclub@hotmail.com.

John Maloney for Mayor



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MONTHLY FEATURE

LOCAL NEWS

Port Colborne woman feeds Iraq's displaced

TIFFANY MAYER
For QMI Agency Niagara

Beans, rice, eggs, potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes and tea.

It all sounds like the makings of a feast but for 23 families in Piramagram in Iraqi Kurdistan, they are the staples of survival. And for Eatin Wilson, the Port Colborne woman who is helping to feed those families each week with such foodstuffs, it is the least she can do.

"They've been a lovely group of people," Wilson said during an interview via Skype. "They're really patient, understanding and kind. They're just really grateful for what we bring."

No one grabs at the food deliveries when they arrive or complains that someone got more than them. But they are also without a doubt "that palpable kind of desperate that comes with being so unsure of the future," she wrote recently on a Facebook post about her latest delivery of food to them.

Wilson has been in Iraqi Kurdistan, separated from the rest of Iraq by a fortified border for the past year. She was beckoned to a region of the world most shy away from for the opportunity to help out with the One Shot Project, which teaches photography to Kurdish children. Since her arrival, she has seen Kurdish families with refugees from southern Iraq, who are fleeing the brutality of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militants.

The families Wilson is helping are from Mosul, now part of the ISIS stronghold in Iraq that stretches from the central part of the Middle Eastern country into northeastern Syria. Escaping to Kurdistan was a matter of life and death for them. Some came with sleeping mats, maybe a cooking pot or two. Others arrived with only the clothing on their backs. All of them arrived in need.

Wilson knows little else about them, only learning since their arrival that some of the women in the group are pregnant, making the need

to supply them with food that much greater.

"We actually haven't asked their background. It really doesn't matter," said Wilson, who lives in nearby Sulaymaniyah. "It's a pretty small town and we're pretty far from Mosul so I don't know how they ended up here."

She does know they need help, something which non-governmental and humanitarian organizations have been unable to do because of they are overwhelmed by the demand for their services. More than one million people displaced by ISIS have sought refuge in Kurdistan, home to 4.5 million people normally. Aid groups can't keep up.

Enter Wilson and her colleagues with One Shot, who mentioned the families' plight on Facebook and, without asking, started receiving donations from afar to help them. "We heard they weren't getting help from other agencies. Twenty-three families is a lot of people and it's a manageable amount of people so we

thought we might be able to help them with something," she explained.

It started with groceries delivered to the families, who are staying in a school until a refugee camp is built that can take them in. Bananas, cucumbers, rice, beans, tomato paste — the cans from which are often used to cook food — they are the basics Wilson and her colleagues scour local markets for hours to find and fill bellies for at least a few days at a time.

"The food that we bring, it doesn't last a whole week," Wilson noted. "We're not completely filling all their needs but we're helping. Some of the families had some money when they came so we're hoping to help them stretch their money as far as possible. If we can help them with staples, then we can help them with other things."

Diapers, prenatal vitamins, cooking pots, medicine and sleeping mats have also been purchased with donations.

"Our hope was that we could be a stop-gap for them until they get into a United Nations

refugee) camp ... It's just the time until then, they're in a really difficult situation."

It costs about \$700 a week to feed the families, much of which comes by way of donations that the One Shot group members have now started seeking. It's not only coming up with the funds that's a challenge. The mere act of shopping for food to feed 23 families — about 120 people — takes much of the day.

It starts with a trip to a market that Wilson describes as similar to the Ontario Food Terminal in Toronto. Vendors arrive early in the day, large hauls of produce laid out for those willing to bid on it and typically sell in markets elsewhere.

Then they hit bazaars in search of packaged goods. It takes Wilson and her friends about seven hours from when they first set out for market until the food is with the families.

"By the time we got (to them), we're pretty wiped out," she said. "This isn't something I've done before. You just want

to make sure everyone gets the food ... and I find it a little stressful to be honest. Not in a bad way, just you want it to go well for them."

Townpeople are also assisting where they can: the propane dealer who gave fuel tanks to use for cooking; the market vendors who cut Wilson and crew a deal on produce and dry goods when they heard who will be using the food.

The editors she is providing gives much more than nourishment, however, attesting to the power that some simple staples, often which languish in our own pantries, can have. "Mostly, it's letting them know they haven't been forgotten."

To donate, visit www.mrds.org and enter account designation Iraq-P008. Donations are tax-deductible.

Tiffany Mayer writes about local food and farming at eatingniagara.com. Her first book, *Niagara Food: A Seasonal History of the Peninsula's Bounty* (The History Press), is now in stores. You can reach her at eat@eatingniagara.com or on Twitter @eatingniagara.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **EDUCATION:** Grades 3, 6 reading, writing and arithmetic

Mostly good EQAO marks for Niagara schools

DON FRASER
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara's English-language Catholic school board has topped provincial averages in all Grade 3 and 6 assessments.

While District School Board of Niagara also did well, it is struggling with junior math scores.

The Education Quality and Accountability Office has released results for all school

boards listing primary and junior scores in reading, writing and mathematics from 2013-14.

In Grade 3 scores for the Niagara Catholic District School Board, students tested earlier this year were from four to nine percentage points higher than the provincial average of students meeting a curriculum standard. Its Grade 6 scores were from three to six percentage points

higher.

"Certainly, we're very pleased with the EQAO results as a snapshot of student achievement," said Catholic board education director John Crocco. He said not only did the latest results surpass the provincial average, "our five-year trend data... shows continuous improvement."

Crocco said results will be further analyzed using more detail and data by schools,

with staff discussions to follow.

At DSNB, results met or surpassed provincial standards in four of six categories. The Ministry of Education identifies that provincial standard is equivalent to a B grade. Over time, DSNB has shown improvement in its scores.

Since 2009-10, Grade 3 success rates have risen 10% in writing and 15% in reading. Grade 6 results improved 7% in reading and 10% in writing. Success rates in Grade 3 math rose 2%, and at 69% is above the provincial rate.

However, only 47% of those Grade 6 DSNB students tested in math met the standard for 2013-14 — a decline of

4% from the previous year's results. That compares to the province's 54% for 2013-14.

"EQAO is just one way for us to assess student (learning)," said John Dickson, the board's superintendent of school support services. "And we're very proud of the progress students have made in literacy."

He said slumping math results are "unfortunately consistent with what's happening in the province."

Among the score-boosting math measures is a skills upgrading course paid for by the DSNB and taken by more than 140 elementary teachers last year. Elementary students can practice on game-like interactive Dreambox software at home.

Niagara results "pretty much trend along the provincial trend lines," said Bruce Rodriguez, chief administrative officer of the EQAO.



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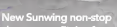
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BUFFALO NIAGARA

PORT COLBORNE COUNCIL**Still no resolution for Nyon energy park**

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Residents who've been waiting nearly a decade for a resolution regarding the controversial Nyon energy park will have to wait a little longer.

A special Port Colborne council meeting was held last week to determine whether the sales agreement with Nyon Marine Fueling Corp. should be approved, terminated or sent back to staff for further negotiations.

Council decided unanimously for staff to continue discussions in an effort to address issues preventing the project from moving forward. The proposed park is to include a 56-tank petrochemical storage facility for diesel, petrol and oil, as well as a solar farm and dry industrial land to be later developed.

The tank farm will be fed by ships travelling through the Welland Canal with distribution taking place by truck and rail. No manufacturing will take place on site.

The biggest concern, based on advice from the city's legal counsel, is a lack of security in place to ensure Port Colborne receives its return on investment once the sale of its 775 acres of land to Nyon are finalized, said Cecil Vincent, the city manager of special

projects and strategic corporate initiatives.

The project's fuel agreement, not yet finalized, has Nyon awarding the city an annual payment of \$500,000 for 10 years through the company's revenue stream. The company is also set to make monthly payments to Port Colborne of 1/100th of one cent per litre of all petroleum products sold, supplied, distributed or shipped from the property, to a maximum of \$4 million per year.

If construction on the tank farm does not start within three years of acquiring the land, company president Gordon Baker has also made a "personal guarantee" to pay the city \$2 million, Vincent said.

It was a commitment Baker also made publicly at last week's meeting.

But the city's legal counsel believes more security should be in place to ensure Port Colborne recoups its initial investment.

"If the city has public land and is going to sell it, the city expects to get paid for it and should get paid for it," Vincent said. Port Colborne, he added, has invested about \$1.5 million to date.

"We haven't walked away from the table and I'm not preparing that we do so now," he said, recommending that negotiations continue.

Vincent hopes to see the matter "come back to council quickly with a resolution."

James Ayres, legal counsel who spoke on behalf of Nyon at the meeting, said the park, which will

create in excess of \$100 million in infrastructure in the lakeside city, is expected to become a "major energy hub" for Canada. It will facilitate the movement of crude oil from Alberta and Saskatchewan to serve

eastern Canada and U.S. east coast refineries.

Ayres estimated the park will create 120 direct full-time jobs in Port Colborne and about 180 indirect jobs.



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■ **CRISIS NEGOTIATORS:** 'You can't talk the police into'

Lives in the balance

RAY SPITERI
QMI Agency Niagara

Hostage situations. Suicide attempts.

Those are just some of the crisis scenarios a team of six Niagara Regional Police negotiators are

called to deal with.

On any given year, the team is required to bring 12 to 15 crisis cases to successful conclusions. Some of those are done quickly, others turn into full-blown negotiations.

And it's all voluntary — on call

— above and beyond their regular police duty. Officers on the team have other roles within the police service.

"It's definitely something that you have to have an interest in. We care about people," says Det. Sgt. Scott Kraushar.

"This is an excellent team. We all work very well together. You'll find negotiator teams across the province are all the same. They care about people. In reality, it's not about us, though. It's about that person in crisis."

The team was called out to the brink of the Horseshoe Falls earlier this month, where after discussions with a distraught Niagara Falls man that lasted 14 hours, negotiators were able to convince the person to come back to safety.

While they can't discuss the specifics surrounding individual cases, four members of the team sat down with QMI Agency Niagara to talk about their roles as negotiators.

Kraushar says there's a posting process officers interested in joining such a team go through, as well as an interview process. Successful candidates attend Canadian Police College for a course. The team takes part in training twice a year.

It's through that training that negotia-

tors learn how to maintain dialogue with people in crisis situations, as well as how to keep their composure.

"You're taught certain skills and you stay focused and you rely on your team," says Det. Sgt. Wayne Genders. "We don't usually work alone. There should be a primary negotiator and that's accompanied by a secondary negotiator."

A member can also act as a liaison between the team and the incident commander.

"You work together as a team and that way you get assistance from your team members and your training to complete the call, hopefully successfully."

Det. Sgt. Brian Bleich says the primary negotiator is usually the main team member who engages the subject, while the secondary negotiator is "like a coach for them."

Continued on next page

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MIKE DUBATISTA/STAFF PHOTO

Niagara Regional Police Det. Sgt. Brian Bleich is a member of the NRP's crisis negotiating team.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **CRISIS NEGOTIATORS:** 'You can't talk the police lingo'

Lives in the balance

From previous page

"The secondary is a listener, and it helps the primary. They discuss, between the two of them, what's going to be said. They come up with ... different ideas of what to say. But if you have too many people talking, the subject may not become engaged as much as if you have that one person who is focused on (the subject) and you build a rapport, a relationship."

Det. Sgt. Maggie Devine says a negotiator may not know "what the right thing is to say."

"I don't think that you, specifically, know what the right thing is to say, but you're really listening to what they're saying and you're responding to them."

Bleich says it can be mentally exhausting and "hard to keep going and stay focused" if a crisis lasts for hours, which is when negotiators will transition in their roles to stay fresh.

"A lot of crisis negotiation, as well, is listening. It's not about us doing the talking, it's about us listening," adds Kraushar.

There are times, says Genders, when people who were in crisis situations have reached out to police and thanked them after an incident.

"They truly thank you and say, 'I was just having a bad day.'"

"And that's usually all it is. They're just overwhelmed that one day or a couple

days and they get into a situation where they think that's their only decision, like they don't think clearly, that they have no other way out.

"That's all we try to do is ... bring them back to a rational state. They're usually overwhelmed by a multitude of problems and (we) start breaking them down, one at a time, and letting them know there are other ways out."

Genders says showing up in uniform could hinder a negotiator's ability to have a successful dialogue with the subject, so often times they come dressed as an average citizen.

Bleich says police officers with an investigative background could be more likely to want to volunteer to be a negotiator because they are used to speaking with people one on one, face to face.

"I think when most of us step into the role of a negotiator, basically you remove the cap of a police officer," he says.

"I don't think we have the (same) mentality ... as a uniform police officer would have at a call like that. We're there ... to speak to the person and to face their problems at that time, to bring to a successful conclusion. You can't talk the police lingo."

ray.splter@sunmedia.ca
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Niagara Regional Police Det. Sgt. Maggie Devine is a member of the NRP's crisis negotiating team.

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■ **STATISTICS CANADA:** Survey numbers released; 35% of people at Niagara Detention Centre said to have illness or addiction

One in five live with mental-health issue

TONY RICCIUTO
QMI Agency Niagara

The more we know about mental health the better it is for all of us, but there are still many Canadians who don't know where to turn when they need help, says George Kurzawa, executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association Niagara branch.

Good mental health, he explains, is more than just absence of a disease, it is a positive sense of well-being or the capacity to enjoy life and deal

with the challenges people face on a daily basis.

Statistics Canada has released an analysis of the mental health and wellbeing of Canadians. The analysis examined the percentages of Canadians aged 15 or older in three categories — flourishing, languishing and struggling — mental health.

The analysis is the result of the 2012 Canadian Community Health Survey of 25,000 people living in the 10 provinces. People living on reserves, those in the military, prison or long-term care were

not included in the survey.

Findings from the reports suggested one in five Canadians reported needing mental-health care. While two-thirds of people reported that mental-health care needs were met, one-third reported their needs were only being partially met or unmet.

Counselling services were the most common need, but also the need most likely to be unmet.

Youths were also found to have the highest rates of mood disorders and substance use issues.

"Any information that gets attention on mental health is good information," said Kurzawa, but he cautioned that numbers from statistics don't always reflect the full picture of what might actually be taking place. This was information provided by people after doing a self-assessment, which might not always be accurate. And, some segments of the population, such as those who might be in the armed forces or are serving time in jail, are not included.

"For us here, for example, we

know that 35% of the population at the Niagara Region Detention Centre has a mental illness or addiction," said Kurzawa. "If you were to do this study as a whole for the entire population I'm sure your numbers would not be flourishing as well. They are all Canadian citizens and are relevant so there are some big issues in terms of limited data."

He doesn't believe the latest numbers are "a true picture of mental health" for people living in Niagara. For example, we have a higher suicide rate than the provincial average and that could be due to a number of wide-ranging factors that include poor housing, an unfulfilling job and poor relationships. Those

factors are highly related to feeling good about yourself.

"We don't have the healthiest economy in Niagara and there is a long list of people who are waiting for affordable housing," said Kurzawa. "We see this on a daily basis for the clients we serve, who a large percentage are homeless, mostly homeless or living in sub-standard housing."

While Niagara has much to offer, he adds, those are just a few of the realities some people have to deal with that can have an effect on their mental health.

Anyone who needs help regarding mental health and addiction issues is encouraged to call a confidential access line at 1-866-530-5205.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **UNITED WAY:** Organization uses money to fund local charitable groups

\$650,000

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

What's in a number?

For agencies like the United Way of South Niagara, it's lots of time, effort and planning.

The United Way chapter covering Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne and the surrounding communities, has announced a \$650,000 2014 fundraising campaign goal, marking a \$50,000 increase from a year earlier.

The agency hit its \$600,000 goal in 2013, but it wasn't easy, executive director Tamara Coleman-Lawrie said.

"We just got there last year by scraping the bottom of the buckets," she said. "We really had to sit down and strategically plan how we could do this."

A slowly-improving local economy and a pair of new dollar-matching programs gave the United Way conference in the new target.

"There are some great new business developments in Welland, and PortHill is one of the fastest-growing areas for small businesses in Ontario. I think there's great potential and we just need to find those diamonds in the rough that have the capacity to give," she said.

Three new initiatives have launched to help cover this year's goal.

The Farlow family, which owns Welland

Toyota, is offering to match dollar for dollar new leadership donors who contribute \$1,000 or more up to \$20,000. Renewing leadership donors who increase their donations by more than 10% will also be matched.

The Clark family, which owns both M.T. Belles and the Riverstone Event Centre, will also match any new business donations up to \$20,000. Riverstone will again host one of the major campaign fundraisers — It's a Wonderful Life — Nov. 25.

A third new effort, called Everyday Heroes, is encouraging people to donate \$1 a day. The goal is to find 100 people to sign up for the campaign, which would bring in an additional \$36,500.

"Sometimes I think there are bad misconceptions of what the United Way's," Coleman-Lawrie said. "We're a very lean staffed team that not only tries to raise funds and invest in great services, but to work in the community to make sure we're strong and collaborative to achieve what we need to achieve."

She said it's people like Dan Crandall who benefit from the fundraising efforts.

Crandall, 16, was the keynote speaker at last Tuesday's campaign launch breakfast held at Lookout Point Country Club in Pelham. The Lakeshore Catholic student was diagnosed with autism in 2006 and struggled

in school before joining a Community Living program in Grade 9.

"My life changed. I finally found a place that I felt comfortable and fit in," Crandall said. "I didn't feel different ... most of them had a diagnosis and experienced life's challenges and had similar issues like me."

Crandall's father, Rick, said his son's grades and mood greatly improved, but was disappointed when some of the programs were cut back because of funding cutbacks last year.

"This is what the support of donation dollars does for Dan," Rick Crandall said. "He has grown and is

maturing. By coming here today he realizes there are so many kids with special needs who can't speak for themselves."

For more information on this year's campaign event schedule or to donate, visit www.unitedwaysouthniagara.ca.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **RECYCLING:** Region asks residents to bundle plastic bags in grey box

Marriage of the Odd Couple

BOB HOULE

(MI) Agency Niagara

Poly and Greycie are a match made in recycling heaven.

It's a union Niagara Region recycling officials are asking residents to marry on a regular basis.

Poly is a plastic bag in which other plastics in the form of bags and stretchy plastic outer-wrapping are stuffed in. Poly is then placed into Greycie, the grey recycling bin where paper products like newsprint and cardboard go.

This marriage can save taxpayers upward of \$85,000 a year, according to the CEO of Niagara Recycling, which operates the region-owned recycling plant on Kent Ave. in

Niagara Falls.

The region recently launched the Odd Couple campaign starring Poly and Greycie to inform residents of the need to bundle stretchy plastic outer-wraps and plastic bags into one plastic bag, and putting it at the curb inside the grey box along with paper products.

Loose plastics loose in the blue box causes a load of problems at the recycling plant.

"If you did a tour of the 50-some recycling facilities in Ontario, you would probably find that plastic bag management is the most difficult problem," said Norm Kraft, CEO of the nonprofit company that provides employment

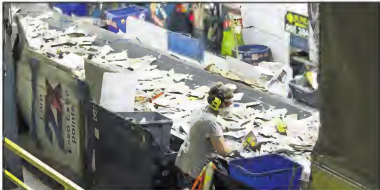
to approximately six to eight developmentally challenged adults, among others.

"There are three areas in which it impacts the recycling operation," Kraft said. "We have labour, maintenance and disposal."

"From a labour point of view, I have a lot of staff picking film (plastic bags and outer-wrap) off the sorting line. That's not full bags of film, it's the loose bags that are just killing our operation, because the loose bags—people think it's plastic, they mix it in the blue box along with the other recyclables."

"So the very important message is you need to stuff the materials into a bag."

Continued on next page



BOB TYMCZYK/STAFF PHOTO

CEO Norm Kraft gives a tour of the Niagara Recycling Centre in Niagara Falls. Staff are encouraging new recycling for stretchable plastic bags which can now be thrown in separately with other recycling.



THE CITY OF PORT COLBORNE 2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOTICE OF VOTE, ADVANCE VOTE AND PROXY VOTING Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 40)

NOTICE is hereby given to the municipal electors of the City of Port Colborne that voting will be held upon the dates and at the times and places stated in this notice for the purpose of electing persons to the following offices:

Mayor (one [1] to be elected at large by all electors)

Councillor Ward One (two [2] to be elected by ward vote)

Councillor Ward Two (two [2] to be elected by ward vote)

Councillor Ward Three (two [2] to be elected by ward vote)

Regional Councillor (one [1] to be elected at large by all electors)

Trustee for the District School Board of Niagara (one [1] to be elected at large by the English Language Public School electors of the municipalities of the City of Port Colborne and the Town of Port Erie)

Trustee for the Niagara Catholic District School Board (one [1] to be elected at large by the English Language Separate School electors of the municipalities of the City of Port Colborne, the Town of Port Erie and the Township of Westfield)

Trustee for the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique (one [1] to be elected at large by the French Language Separate School electors of the municipalities of the City of Port Colborne, the Town of Port Erie, the Town of Pelham, the Township of Wainfleet and the City of Welland)

Acclamations have been declared for the following offices:

Councillor Ward Four - Ron Bodner and Barbara Butters

Trustees for the Conseil Scolaire Vlanome (French Language Public School Board) - Derrick Fournier

ADVANCE POLLS:

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 • **Location:** Vale Health and Wellness Centre, 550 Elizabeth Street • **Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014 • **Location:** Municipal Offices, 66 Charlotte Street • **Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 • **Location:** Port Colborne Mall, 287 West Side Road • **Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Those electors requiring special assistance are encouraged to vote at an Advance Poll.

REGULAR POLLS: **Date/Time:** Monday, October 27, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Voter Notification Cards are being sent to all persons on the Voters' List in mid-October indicating the place where they may vote. It will facilitate voting if electors present their card at the Poll. If you are an eligible voter but do not receive a card or you need more information, please contact the Clerk's Office at 905-835-9900 or visit the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca.

PROXY APPLICATIONS: Any qualified elector may appoint another person who is a qualified elector in the same municipality to vote on his/her behalf. For more information and to obtain the "Appointment for Proxy Voting" form, please contact the Office of the City Clerk, Municipal Offices, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne or 905-835-9900.

A person appointed as a proxy may apply for their proxy voting certificate in the Office of the City Clerk after 2:00 p.m. on Nomination Day, September 12, 2014, up to and including Election Day, October 27, 2014, during regular working hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or on each day of an Advance Vote from noon to 5:00 p.m.

Ashley Grigg, City Clerk & Returning Officer

Documents related to the 2014 Municipal Election, including this notice, are available in alternative formats upon request.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **RECYCLING:** Region asks residents to bundle plastic bags in grey box

Marriage of the Odd Couple

From previous page

He said employees who have to pull the loose plastic bags and wrapping from the other recyclables as they make their way down conveyor belts at the 100,000-square-foot facility would be better used sorting more valuable materials, such as No. 2 plastic containers that fetch approximately \$600 a tonne.

Film, on the other hand, sells for \$35 a tonne.

He said the loose film causes about 10 hours a month of "down time" in the production line as idlers beneath conveyor belts and bearings get clogged up with film.

While the sorting process catches about 80% of the film along the line, the rest

finds its way into a "residue" pile, which the region pays another company to collect.

"So there's three areas where it impacts us," Kraft said.

"It's over \$85,000 a year, that film costs us."

Lost revenue is a lost opportunity to save citizens money, said Catherine Habermehl, the region's director of waste management.

She said in 2013, \$8.5 million in gross revenues was generated from the sale of recyclables, which is used to offset the cost of the region's waste-management program.

"That \$8.5 million goes back off of our cost to run our hazardous waste depots, our environment days, our landfill sites, etc," Habermehl said.

"The residents play a vital role in the success of the recycling program, because it all starts with them at their house."

"And that's why it's really important for them to sort properly and recycle as much as possible, because it helps us offset the cost of the program back to them. If we don't have that revenue, we have to turn to the taxpayer, and taxes, to cover our costs."

rob.houle@summa.ca
Twitter: RobH_Standard



BOB TWINCZYNSKI/STAFF PHOTO

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■ **DONATION:** 55 iPods delivered to four Welland long-term care homes

Music to help dementia patients

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Tapping your toes, rocking your body. Humming or even singing along to the tune.

They're all common reactions to hearing a familiar song.

Those are the signs staff at Welland long-term care facilities are hoping to see in

dementia patients following a recent donation of 55 iPods and headphone sets.

The \$4,000 donation, a joint initiative between the Rose City Seniors Centre Founda-

tion board and the city's senior citizens advisory committee, will be split between Rapelle Lodge, Woodlands of Sunset, Foyer Richelieu and the extended care unit at Welland hospital.

Studies have shown that

music — familiar music in particular — can have a significant impact on patients with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, said committee member Carol Sernase.

After seeing much research on the topic, the foundation

board and advisory committee teamed up to assist the local care homes in getting the listening devices through their doors.

Most dementia patients have difficulty communicating, said Dave Stortz, resident and community programs manager at Rapelle Lodge. Music, he said, offers staff, as well as families, another avenue to stimulate and engage residents.

"You might ask them what they want for breakfast and there's no response," Stortz said.

"But put on something familiar and they start tapping their toes. They might even sing along."

Familiarity is key, he said, which is why the families of residents play such an important role in the initiative.

Once staff determine who may best benefit from having the iPods, they will work with the corresponding families to create a unique music library, filled with sounds of the past, for each resident.

"It has to be personal," Stortz said.

Denise Bourque, resident and community programs manager at Woodlands of Sunset, was most excited to give an iPod to one resident who used to be an avid guitar player.

"He loves Johnny Cash and The Beatles," she said, adding she's hopeful the music will make him feel as though he has an instrument in his hands once again.

As there are not enough iPods to service all residents in need within the homes, donations are always being accepted.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured in front is Rapelle Lodge resident Lorraine Blake, and in back, from left, are committee member Carol Sernase, board vice-chair Tom Bacolini, and resident and community programs managers Dave Stortz, of Rapelle Lodge, and Denise Bourque, of Woodlands of Sunset.

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■ HEALTH

Niagara's first medical marijuana clinic opens

KARENA WALTER

QMI Agency Niagara

It looks like any other doctor's

clinic on the inside. There's a blood pressure pump, stethoscopes and an exam table.

It's the vaporizer in the consulta-

tion room that gives it away.

Welcome to Niagara's first clinic that focuses solely on patients who might need medical marijuana.

Canadian Cannabis Clinics has opened at 80 King St. in St. Catharines, in the old Corbiac building downtown.

There's no marijuana on the premises and the office doesn't smell it.

Instead, a patient makes an appointment with the clinic's physician, who will assess the person to determine if he or she is eligible for a medical document, like a prescription. They can use that document to order medical marijuana from one of 13 licensed producers in Canada.

"The cost of medical marijuana is quite high, almost \$7 a gram," said director Roman Levy, explaining the clinic has zero patient fees, unlike others in the country.

"We wanted to remove barriers as much as possible for these patients."

The average medical marijuana user receives one to three grams a day.

The clinic is the first of what's expected to be 10 rolled out across Canada in the next year from directors Levy of Hamilton and Joseph del Moral of Toronto.

The pair said they don't intend to start their venture in St. Catharines because unlike in Toronto, which has two similar clinics, the Niagara region had nothing of its kind.

The move is in response to federal regulations that came into effect April 1 requiring medical marijuana users to get their marijuana from an approved supplier with a doctor's prescription.

Before, users applied to a program through Health Canada.

The new rules make doctors the gatekeepers, but Levy said they don't all feel comfortable prescribing medical marijuana. That might be for moral reasons or, more likely, he said, because they are new to the treatment options and don't feel knowledgeable about it.

That's where the clinic comes in, offering its own physician who has no problem providing a medical document if a patient can

benefit.

"Cannabis is just one of these products we've shunted into a forbidden product that we know people for a thousand years have been using as a medicine," said Dr. Barry Waiglass, the clinic's physician.

Waiglass, a family doctor for decades who spent two years at the Niagara Falls Community Health Centre, said working at the clinic is an opportunity for him to get cannabis medicine into the hands of those who might find it helpful in reducing suffering.

Patients who might benefit, according to a clinic referral form, include those with acute pain, migraines, cancer pain, epilepsy, glaucoma or Alzheimer's disease, among others.

Waiglass said he's had mixed reaction from his colleagues, some of whom think there isn't enough data to prescribe marijuana while others think it's effective in relieving pain.

Waiglass said he'll be rooting out abusers of recreational cannabis.

"My job is clear," he said. "I'm going to tell people who are inquiring about using medical marijuana who have chronic health problems."

The clinic has partnered with CanvaxRX, a medical marijuana resources and counselling service, to offer patients advice and expertise on site.

It's in the CanvaxRX room that the vaporizer sits, so a counselor can teach a patient who receives a medical document how to actually use the drug. Health Canada recommends it be vaporized, rather than smoked, to inhale active ingredients while avoiding byproducts from burning.

Del Moral said they booked four patients for opening day, but are fully booked Wednesday and Thursday. They aren't sure how many Niagara patients there will be but will add another doctor if demand requires it.

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For the senior sticking with the real life

GREG FURMINGER
(QMI Agency Niagara)

Canadian Tire money is going digital — but Thayer Bouck is sticking with the real McCoy, or, if you will, the real McTire.

Most Canucks have a stash of the retailer's cash in a kitchen junk drawer, a dresser, a glove compartment, or lying scattered in a dusty garage — or in all of those places.

But not this 79-year-old retired East-End Secondary School math teacher.

"I'd be close to having 100 three-ring binders full of Canadian Tire coupons," Bouck said proudly.

The coupons are preserved in plastic sleeves and labelled according to oddball features including palindromic serial numbers, mismatched serial numbers, missing serial numbers, differences in the appearance of Sandy McTire (a straw in his mouth or a toothpick, a difference in his scarf, as examples).

He even has some counterfeits.

The Fonthill man's most unusual ones are clear misprints: the back printed on the front side of paper, colours and logos missing, poorly cut bills. He has several that are just grey and black ink — no denomination, no logo, no Sandy.

He also has an assortment from the original series of Canadian Tire Gas Bar coupons featuring a happy tire and dollar sign. Canadian Tire's first logo.

I think the joy of collecting it is it's a passionate hobby said Bouck, who admitted after he receives his Canadian Tire money at the checkout, that's what he does — just checks it out closely before he even gets out of the store.

Well, now there's change. Canadian Tire announced earlier this month that it is launching a smartphone app and wallet-sized rewards card to be used to collect and redeem Canadian Tire money — e-Canadian Tire money — instead of the paper stuff.

"I heard about it about a month ago, and they were so excited," Bouck quipped.

In moving to the digital age, Canadian Tire announced its 56-year-old loyalty program is evolving with My Canadian Tire Money. The easier way to collect and redeem its iconic currency — and also donate it to the retailer's jumpstart charity or to trade with others, upon request — launches in Nova Scotia Oct. 10 and to customers nationally Oct. 28.

But bank on this, the paper money will carry on. The digital rewards program will simply complement paper Canadian Tire money.

As Canada's oldest loyalty program, we know Canadian Tire money holds an extraordinary place in the hearts of Canadians," Canadian Tire chief operating officer Allan MacDonald said in a news release.

My Canadian Tire Money members will receive exclusive

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON QMI AGENCY NIAGARA FACEBOOK PAGES

"I like my Canadian Tire money. Like it the way it is." — Owen N. Stephanie Hardison

"My dad works with someone that has so much Canadian Tire money that he can take a duffel bag full into the store and pay for the entire item he's buying." — Holly Marie Wilcox

"I bought a \$300 treadmill all in Canadian Tire money, I don't think the people in line behind me liked it too much. Lol." — Tracy Standing Loder

"My 12-year-old loves to save them." — Margie Rietveld

"This has been talked about for years! I was a cashier at my local

CV over five years ago and I heard it talk about digital money. As a former cashier let me tell you, I appreciate that there's the option for a card. It may be wonderful to spend the CT money but it's not wonderful if you're a cashier when you're the only cashier open." — Camille Mann

"I stood behind a guy who counted out enough money to pay for his fishing license. I welcome the change." — Janya GR

"I hate getting the paper money so, I see this as a good thing." — Samantha Giam

"Oh n!CT, welcome to 2014!" — Preston Richards

bonus offers sent directly to their online account and smartphone.

"Meeting customer needs has always been at the heart of our innovation strategy, ensuring that everything we do has a positive end-benefit for the consumer," said MacDonald. "My Canadian Tire Money will serve as a great complement to our

existing data programs, allowing us over time to increase the relevancy of our messages, provide a more personalized and tailor-made approach and, ultimately, better serve our customers."

Well, Bouck is quite content the way things are now. "You're missing all of this, you're missing it (if you choose to go digital)," he said while looking over his old assortment of coupons.

Given I love them, I go so slowly because I'm looking thoroughly for things that messed up."

Although Bouck can cash in his time and checks, the only real "value" in keeping his oddities is to the individual collector. Unlike legal tender for which misprints can reap big prices, misprints in Canadian Tire money still only worth their face value — if it has been printed at all — although he has a \$2 Canadian Tire coupon he figures is worth a C-note.

"Those who enjoy collecting and saving the coupons will continue to do it," said Bouck, who headed the 300-member Canadian Tire Coupon Collectors Club for seven years until he stepped down for health reasons two years ago.

He still is and has been a member of the club, which celebrates its silver anniversary next year, for 23 years.

"We kid as members of the coupon club, but the member uses his money to buy something at the store, he's kicked out."

greg.furminger@qmiagency.ca
Twitter: @GregTheTire




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FLU VACCINE

It is time to start thinking about getting the flu vaccine. There will be flu shot clinics offered in the local area in the upcoming weeks where anyone can go to. Offer these clinics are unadvertised. There is a great deal of misunderstanding about the flu vaccine and why people do not get vaccinated.

Each year an average of 20,000 people are hospitalized, and between 2,000 and 3,000 Canadians die of flu and its complications. These rates may be further compounded if the flu is not taken seriously, because winter has and adults over 65. The seasonal influenza virus can be effective and can be spread easily in the office. The flu shot only provides protection up to 12 months. Immunization is needed each year. The year's flu shot protects against the eight flu virus as well as two other strains of the Coxsack and influenza virus is the best time for immunization, but the flu shot may still be given in winter months.

- Who should get vaccinated? The following is a list from the recommended guidelines:
- PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK OF INFLUENZA-RELATED COMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING:**
- ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS SUCH AS:
 - CHRONIC OR LONG-TERM RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DISEASES
 - DIABETES MELLITUS AND OTHER METABOLIC DISEASES
 - CANCER, IMMUNOSUPPRESSION, IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE THERAPY, OR OTHER MEDICATIONS
 - RENAL DISEASE
 - ANEMIA
 - CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH CONDITIONS THAT LEAD TO HIGH RISK OF FLU VIRUS WITH ASPEN
 - ALL RESIDENTS OF NURSING HOMES OR OTHER CHRONIC CARE FACILITIES
 - SENIORS AGED 65 YEARS OR OLDER
 - PRISON INMATES
 - CHILDREN AGED 6 MONTHS TO 23 MONTHS OF AGE
 - PERSONS WHO ARE MORTUARY OFFICERS
 - ADDITIONAL PEOPLE:
- PEOPLE CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING INFLUENZA TO THOSE AT HIGH RISK OF COMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING:**
- HEALTH CARE AND OTHER CARE PROVIDERS
 - HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS OF THOSE AT HIGH RISK AND INFANTS LESS THAN SIX MONTHS
 - MEMBERS OF A HOUSEHOLD EXPECTING A NEWBORN DURING FLU SEASON
 - WOMEN AT ALL STAGES OF PREGNANCY OR BREASTFEEDING INFANTS
 - THOSE PROVIDING REGULAR ON-CALL CARE TO CHILDREN 2-5 MONTHS OF AGE
 - THOSE WHO PROVIDE SERVICES WITH CLOSE CONTACT TO PERSONS AT HIGH RISK

OTHER:

- PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES
- PEOPLE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH ANIMAL INFLUENZA INFECTED POLY
- REALITY PEOPLE AGED 5-6 YEARS SHOULD CONSIDER GETTING THE VACCINE EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT IN ONE OF THE ABOVE HIGH RISK CATEGORIES

The flu is the virus that causes the flu. It is a virus that has been spreading across the world since the 1918-1919 pandemic. It is a seasonal disease that can cause serious complications, including pneumonia and death. The virus is spread by droplets in the air or by contact with an infected person. The virus is most active in the winter months.

The flu shot is effective. Scientific studies show the effectiveness of the flu shot is 70% to 90%.

Adults over 65 should also look to getting the pneumococcal vaccine. Pneumococcal disease, a common complication of influenza, is a bacterial disease that can cause pneumonia, bacteremia (bloodstream infection) and meningitis. You can get this vaccine at the same time as the flu shot through your doctor.

Can you get more than one flu shot? You should get one flu shot every year. If you have been sick after getting the shot in the past few years, you may become susceptible to the virus. The virus is spread by droplets in the air or by contact with an infected person. You may have any questions about any of the above information please call or visit your local pharmacy.

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THE RECORD MATTERS

- The Mayor led Port Colborne to be the highest taxed municipality in the region. Port's portion of the tax bill is **\$1712**, compared to an average of **\$1152** for all other municipalities. *(based on average home value)*
- 18% increase in Port taxes since 2010.
- 30% increase in Port taxes since 2006.
- Highest commercial taxes in the region. *(BMA Municipal Tax study 2013)*
- The Mayor further increased City debt by **140%** over the last two years.
- He also voted to increase debt at the Region by **\$73 MILLION** last year alone.

BARRICK RESPECTS TAX DOLLARS

- Barrick is a leader in keeping regional property taxes increases low, with an average annual increase of just over 1% over the last four years.
- Barrick voted against adding significantly to Regional debt.
- He pushed to keep the Region's portion of the water bill low with an overall increase of just 1% over four years.
- Barrick voted to freeze Regional Councillor's pay.
- Will continue to push for a 'Value-for-money' auditor to ensure taxpayers are getting what they pay for.

RE-ELECT

DAVID

BARRICK

REGION

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